

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated October 16, 2008. Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-19, 21-25, 27-32, 34-43, 45-49, 51, and 55-58 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 12, 18, 24, 28, 31, 39, 42, and 51 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claims 1, 4, 11, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 37, 28, 31, 34, 39, 42, 45, 51, and 55 have been amended. Claims 5, 10, 14, 20, 26, 33, 44, 50, and 52-54 have been canceled hereby without prejudice or disclaimer.

It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's determination that claims 31, 33-36, 42, 44-47, 54, 55, 56, and 58 represent allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-11 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,987,632 ("Irrinki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,970,008 ("Zagar"). Claims 12-15, 18-21, 28, 32, 39, 43, 50, 51, and 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Irrinki in view of Zagar and U.S. Patent No. 5,710,550 ("Hseih"). Claims 16, 17, 22, 23, 37, 38, 48, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Irrinki in view of Zagar, Hseih, and U.S. Patent No. 5,361,232 ("Petschauer"). Claims 24-27, 29, 40, and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Irrinki in view of Zagar, Hseih, and U.S. Patent No. 4,173,029 ("Rabindran"). Claims 30, 41, and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Irrinki in view of Zagar, Hseih, Rabindran, and Microsoft Computer Dictionary, fifth edition ("Dictionary").

Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submit independent claims 1, 12, 18, 24, 28, 31, 39, 42, and 51 are patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

In independent claim 1, as amended, during the test operation mode, whether the selected memory cells comprise memory cells having standby current failure is judged according to variations of the power voltage. This added claim limitation was originally recited in original claim 5.

The Office Action contends that Irrinki discloses this claim limitation at col. 2, lines 41-49 and 57-65. The cited portion of Irrinki relates to performing a test on a plurality of rows of a memory array, determining which rows of the memory array are defective, and permanently disabling the defective rows. There is no indication, either in the cited portions of Irrinki or elsewhere in Irrinki that cells are tested for the presence of standby current failure by looking to variation of the power voltage as claimed. Accordingly, Irrinki fails to teach or suggest that “in the test operation mode, whether or not the selected memory cells comprise a memory cell having standby current failure is judged depending on variation of the power voltage.” Moreover, the remainder of the cited art also fails to teach or suggest this claim element and accordingly, independent claim 1, as amended, is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least this reason. Similarly, dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, and 11 are patentably distinct from the cited art at least owing to their dependence upon independent claim 1.

Similarly, independent claim 12, as amended, is patentably distinct from the cited art at least because the cited art, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that “in the test operation mode, whether or not the selected memory cells comprise the memory cell having

standby current failure is judged depending on variation of the power voltage” as claimed.

Dependent claims 13 and 15-17 are patentably distinct from the cited art at least owing to their dependence upon independent claim 12.

Similarly, independent claim 18, as amended, is patentably distinct from the cited art at least because the cited art, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that “in the test operation mode, whether or not the selected memory cells comprise a memory cell having standby current failure is judged depending on variation of the power voltage” as claimed. Dependent claims 19, 21-23 are patentably distinct from the cited art at least owing to their dependence upon independent claim 18.

Similarly, independent claim 24, as amended, is patentably distinct from the cited art at least because the cited art, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that “in the test operation mode, whether the selected memory cells comprise the memory cell having standby current failure is judged depending on variation of the power voltage” as claimed. Dependent claims 25 and 27 are patentably distinct from the cited art at least owing to their dependence upon independent claim 24.

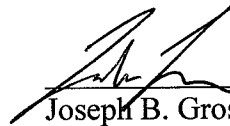
Independent claims 28 and 39 have been amended to include the limitations of original claim 33, which the Office Action has deemed to be allowable. Accordingly, independent claims 28 and 39 are believed to be in condition for allowance at least owing to the introduction of the allowable claim limitation. Dependent claims 29-30, 32, and 34-38 are believed to be in condition for allowance at least owing to their dependence upon independent claim 28. Dependent claims 40-41, 43, and 45-49 are believed to be in condition for allowance at least owing to their dependence upon independent claim 39.

The Office Action has determined that claims 31 and 42 would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form. Accordingly, claims 31 and 42 have been so amended and are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 51 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 55, which the Office Action has deemed to be allowable. Accordingly independent claim 51 is believed to be in condition for allowance at least owing to the introduction of the allowable claim limitation. Dependent claims 55-58 are believed to be in condition for allowance at least owing to their dependence upon independent claim 51.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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